

INTRODUCTION

Content

This report provides standardized incidence ratios for twenty-three types of cancer in the 351 cities and towns of Massachusetts for the five-year time period 1994 through 1998.

The report is organized into the following six sections:

CITY / TOWN CANCER INCIDENCE summarizes the data tabulated in this report.

METHODS provides a detailed explanation of the data collection, data processing and statistical techniques employed in this report.

TABLES presents data for selected types of cancer by city/town and sex.

APPENDIX I provides a listing of International Classification of Diseases for Oncology codes used for the preparation of this report.

APPENDIX II provides a listing of risk factors for selected cancer types and a listing of the individuals who reviewed the risk factor list.

APPENDIX III describes current Massachusetts Department of Public Health efforts to reduce the risk of specific cancers and a list of related educational materials.

Comparison with Previous Reports

This report updates previous annual reports published by the Massachusetts Cancer Registry (MCR). Hard-copy versions of such reports are published every five years, and on-line versions are updated annually. The data contained in this on-line report are also available by contacting the MCR:

MDPH
Mass. Cancer Registry **6th Flr**
250 Washington St
Boston, MA 02108-4619
telephone 617-624-5645; fax 617-624-5697

The preceding report, *1993-1997 City and Town Supplement*, included data for diagnosis years 1993 through 1997, while this report contains data for 1994 through 1998. There have been no changes in this report's format.

Information on cancer control programs of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health is available herein (see APPENDIX III) and elsewhere on the Department's website (www.state.ma.us/dph/cancerct/home.htm). Cancer incidence and mortality data are also available through MassCHIP (<http://masschip.state.ma.us>), the Department's Internet-based public access information service, which provides users with detailed health data on a variety of geographic levels while protecting data confidentiality.

It is important to note that the standardized incidence ratios (SIRs) presented in this report cannot be compared with SIRs in the *1993-1997 City and Town Supplement* because the numbers of expected cases used to calculate SIRs in the earlier publication were based on 1995 city/town population estimates; in this report, the city/town population estimates used to calculate expected case counts were for 1996. See *Expected and Observed Case Counts* in the **METHODS** section for further information.